

From: Durant, Jenna [Durant.Jenna@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/16/2019 4:22:50 PM
To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Monday, Dec. 16
Attachments: Daily News Digest 121619.pdf

**Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.*

**To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.*

**Daily News Digest is for the informational use of EPA Region 6 employees. Please do not distribute further.*

National

1- U.N. talks limp to a close with no deal on carbon trading, E&E News, 12/16/19

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1061822289>

More than two weeks of U.N. climate talks ended yesterday with little headway on a key issue related to the Paris climate accord — an impasse that frustrated both activists and negotiators, and one that raised fresh worries about the future of the planet.

2 – A 'forever chemical' contaminates drinking water near military bases, NBC News, 12/16/19

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/cancer/forever-chemical-poisons-drinking-water-near-military-bases-n1101736>

Often referred to as "forever chemicals," because they do not degrade in the environment, PFAS have been linked to various medical conditions and cancers in humans and animals, including kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, and effects on the immune system, among others.

3 - Trump's potty talk highlights flushing fight, E&E News, 12/13/19

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/12/13/stories/1061801903>

WaterSense is not a regulatory program but rather a voluntary labeling initiative meant to aid consumers looking for options. Federally mandated maximum volumes of 1.6 gallons per flush were codified by Congress in 1992, and the Department of Energy is responsible for those regulations.

4 – EPA Appeals Court Order Regarding Landfill Emissions Plan, Waste 360, 12/13/19

<https://www.waste360.com/legal/epa-appeals-court-order-regarding-landfill-emissions-plan>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is appealing a court order that denies the agency additional time to release an already overdue plan to limit municipal landfill emissions, Bloomberg Environment reports. In a December 10 appeal, EPA asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District to review why its request was denied.

5 – Leaders set to release end-of-year deal today, E&E News, 12/16/19

<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/12/16/stories/1061822795>

House and Senate negotiators have abandoned efforts to include drinking water standards for the class of chemicals known as PFAS in the year-end spending deal, which is expected to be announced today.

6 – Sierra Club Ponders High Court Review of EPA Air Quality Tweaks, Bloomberg Environment, 12/13/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/sierra-club-ponders-high-court-review-of-epa-air-quality-tweaks>

The Sierra Club asked the Supreme Court for two more months to decide whether to challenge a federal appeals court ruling that limited public comment opportunities for changes the EPA made to states' plans to monitor air quality.

Texas

7 – 19-year-old man arrested in connection with Houston mercury spills, NBC News, 12/16/19

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/man-questioned-connection-houston-mercury-spills-n1102581>

A teen was arrested Monday in connection with mercury spills at three Houston businesses that led to one hospitalization, according to authorities.

8 – EPA turns over response and cleanup to the state following TPC explosions in Port Neches, KFDM, 12/13/19

<https://kfdm.com/news/local/epa-turns-over-response-and-cleanup-to-tceq-following-tpc-explosions-in-port-neches>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is transitioning response and cleanup oversight to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality effective Friday, December 13, 2019.

Oklahoma

9 – Will oil field wastewater be used for irrigation (or other purposes) in Oklahoma?, Tulsa World, 12/15/19

https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/local/will-oil-field-wastewater-be-used-for-irrigation-or-other/article_52af70d8-a186-5d9a-bab3-50fe916bc8b6.html

The state of Oklahoma could gain approval from the Environmental Protection Agency to issue permits that would allow oil producers to dispose of oil field production water in above-ground waterways. But it shouldn't be a reality for years to come.

10 – Hiland recognized for energy-saving efforts, Norman Transcript, 12/15/19

https://www.normantranscript.com/news/business/hiland-recognized-for-energy-saving-efforts/article_996f65f9-7de6-58d9-87e2-78599390d395.html

Hiland Dairy Foods in Norman is actively reducing its carbon footprint. Steven Boydston, Hiland Dairy Foods plant manager, said the company is participating in Oklahoma Gas & Electric's free Continuous Energy Improvement program, which incentivizes businesses to reduce electrical usage.

New Mexico

11 – Ensuring a clean environment for all, Albuquerque Journal, 12/15/19

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1401419/ensuring-a-clean-environment-for-all.html>

Environmental contamination in New Mexico has long had disproportionate effects on low-income and minority communities. Fallout from nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining continues to harm the state's indigenous population. A recent University of New Mexico study showed a quarter of Navajo women tested had elevated levels of uranium in their blood.

12 – CEO of mining company attends Pecos meeting, Santa Fe Reporter, 12/15/19

<https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2019/12/13/ceo-of-mining-company-attends-pecos-meeting/>

The mysterious Australian mining company that's pushing for permits to begin prospecting for precious metals in an area just outside the Pecos Wilderness has finally revealed its human face.

Louisiana

13 – 'The whole block shook': Explosion at S&WB power plant frightens neighbors, shuts down a turbine, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 12/15/19

https://www.nola.com/news/article_77541ebe-1ed9-11ea-92c3-97d6aa342669.html

Dette LeBlanc, 61, was walking home when her block blew up. Or so she thought. It came to her first as an unbelievably loud noise — “a big ol’ explosion.” Then she looked up and saw black smoke coming from the massive exhaust stack of Turbine No. 5 at the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board's power plant on South Claiborne Avenue.

14 – As council chair promises final vote on Ascension Sewer, squabbling emerges about negotiations, Baton Rouge Advocate, 12/13/19

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/communities/ascension/article_c5193d66-1dc4-11ea-a350-87b078232a32.html

The Ascension Parish Council's leadership has finished negotiating a 30-year sewer concession and plans a binding vote Monday, over the objections of the incoming parish president who says council leaders backed out on their promise to let him work on the agreement.